

## The generic names of the British Elateridae (Coleoptera) explained

- Agrypnus*: wakeful, alert, from the lack of furrows for the reception of the antennae in repose.
- Lacon*: a Laconian or Spartan (perhaps Laporte's type was from Sparta?)
- Hypnoidus*: sleep-like, apparently a reference to sluggish habits.
- Actenicerus*: having antennae (horns) without pectinations (cf. *Ctenicera*).
- Anostirus*: having a keel, or keels, above (but not readily seen).
- Ctenicera*: with comb-like antennae ("comb-horned").
- Calambus*: "beautiful rim"; must refer to the red patch at the base of the elytra.
- Aplotarsus*: for *Haplotarsus*, "with simple tarsi".
- Paraphotistus*: "brought to light alongside", with implied reference to some other species or genus.
- Prosternon*: must refer to the prosternal leaping mechanism, which however is common to the whole family.
- Selatosomus*: bright body.
- Cidnopus*: first element "spread over", second "foot"; not clear.
- Kibinea*: from some proper name, or an arbitrary formation. This and the preceding were formerly in *Limonius*, which can be rendered "of meadows".
- Limoniscus*: a diminutive of *Limonius*, though not warranted by its size.
- Denticollis*: "toothed neck", i.e. the pronotum. An example of that rare thing, a Latin generic name; our species was formerly in a genus *Campylus*, "a bent staff."
- Athous*: harmless (presumably to crops) in contrast to *Agriotes*.
- Diacanthous*: "with two thorns, i.e. the sharp produced hind pronotal angles. A misspelling of *Diacanthus*, influenced by *Athous*."
- Hemicrepidius*: half a little shoe, from some fancied resemblance.
- Stenagostus*: narrow palm (of hand); application obscure.
- Adrastus*: not running away or escaping.
- Synaptus*: fitted together (doubtless of the prosternal structure, normal for an elaterid).
- Agriotes*: a worker in, or inhabitant of, the fields.
- Dalopius*: For *Dolopius*, "of deceptive appearance".
- Ampedus*: Greek *ana* + *pedon*, "up from the ground", from their leaping powers.
- Brachygonus*: with short (little produced) hind pronotal angles.
- Ischnodes*: of lean appearance or form; not specially apt.
- Megapenthes*: much mourning, from being wholly dull black.
- Procrærus*: with prominent or porrected head (not an obvious feature).
- Elater*: a driver; from the leaping mechanism peculiar to the whole family.
- Sericus*: silky (cf. *Serica* in the Scarabaeidae).
- Panspæus*  
(*Panspœus* auct.): first element "all", second obscure.
- Melanotus*: blackened, made black.
- Fleutiauxellus*: from the name of a French entomologist, plus a diminutive suffix.
- Negastrius*: hardly clear (ne = not, gaster = abdomen).
- Oedostethus*: with swollen breast, i.e. thoracic sternum.
- Zorochros*: of pure colour.
- Cardiophorus*: bearing a heart (from shape of scutellum).
- Dicronychus*: with split claws.

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